

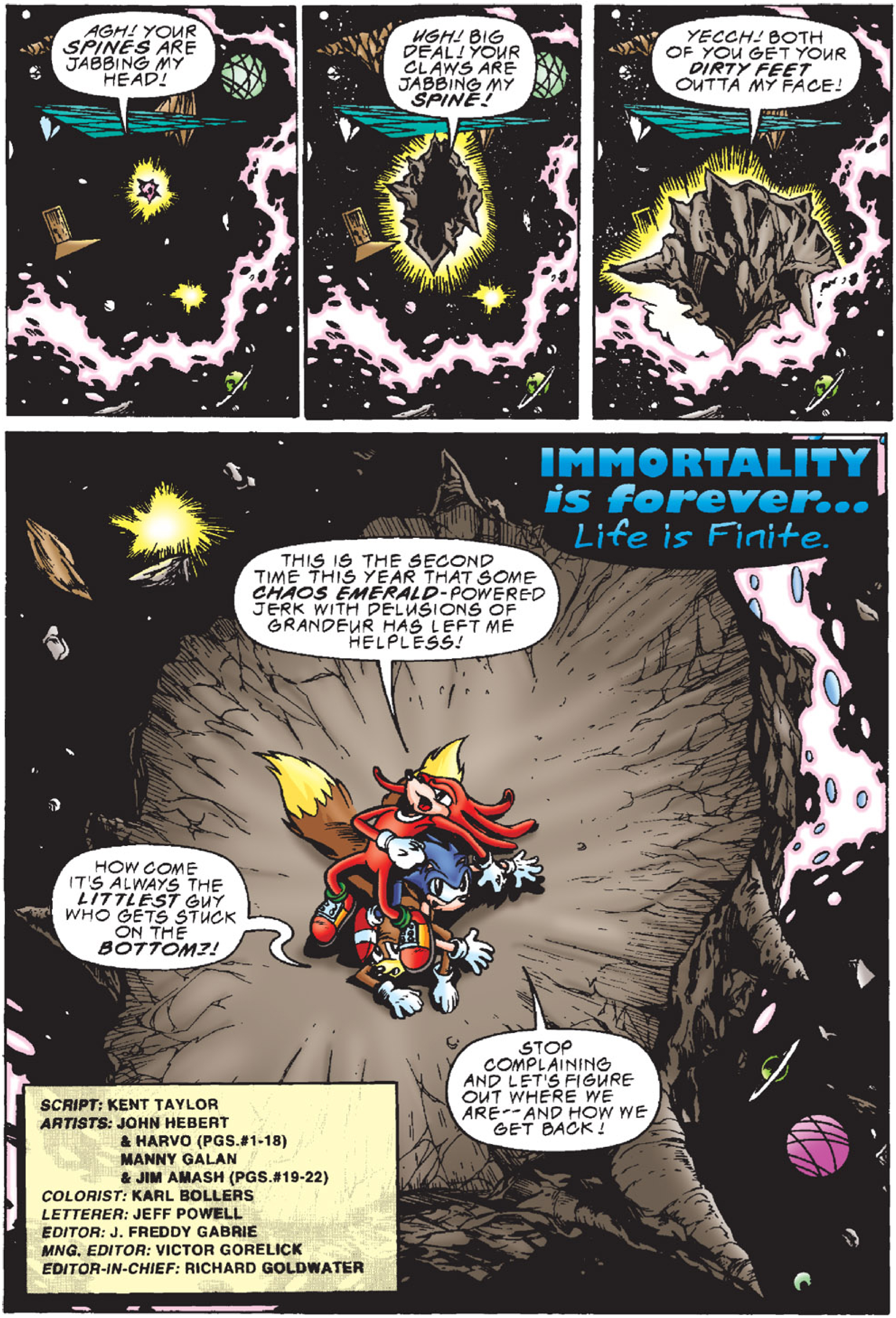
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.56
MAR.
US $1.75
CAN $1.85
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

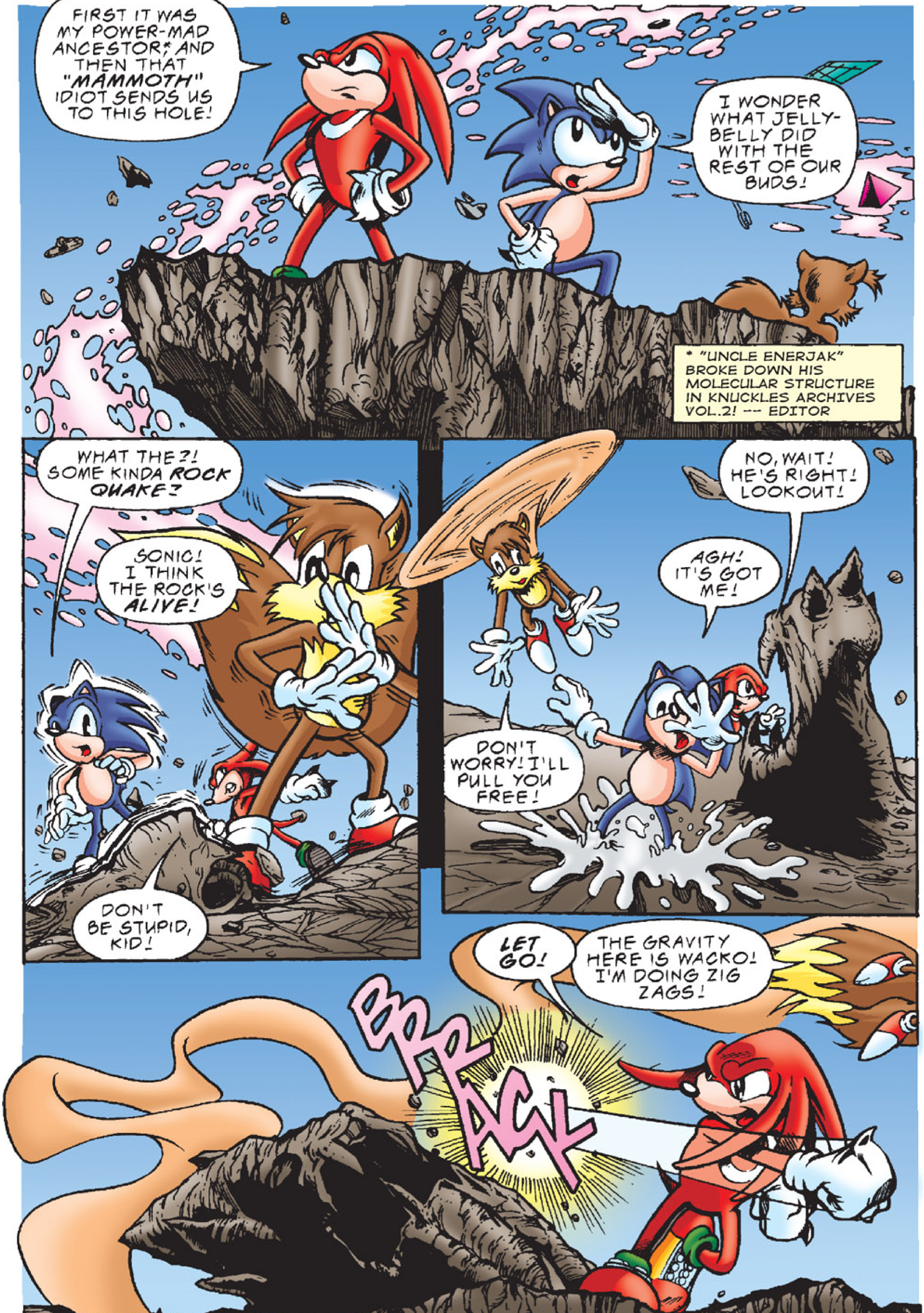
Once a virtual paradise, the planet Mobius was enslaved when conquered by the techno-evil of Doctor Robotnik. In the aftermath, a courageous group of "Freedom Fighters" has risen to restore the order and beauty that was once theirs. The greatest among them is the fastest and way-coolest dude on two feet...

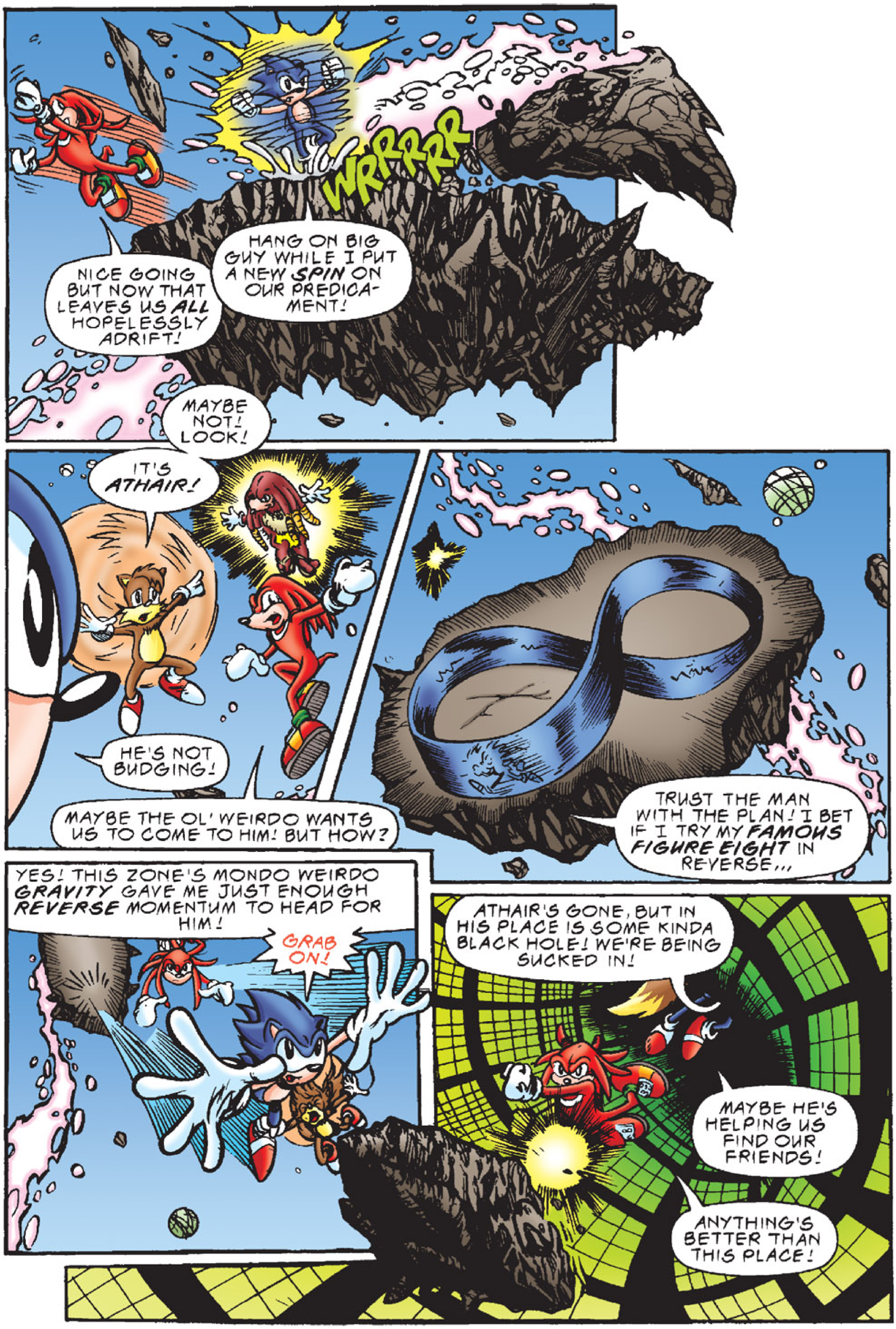
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

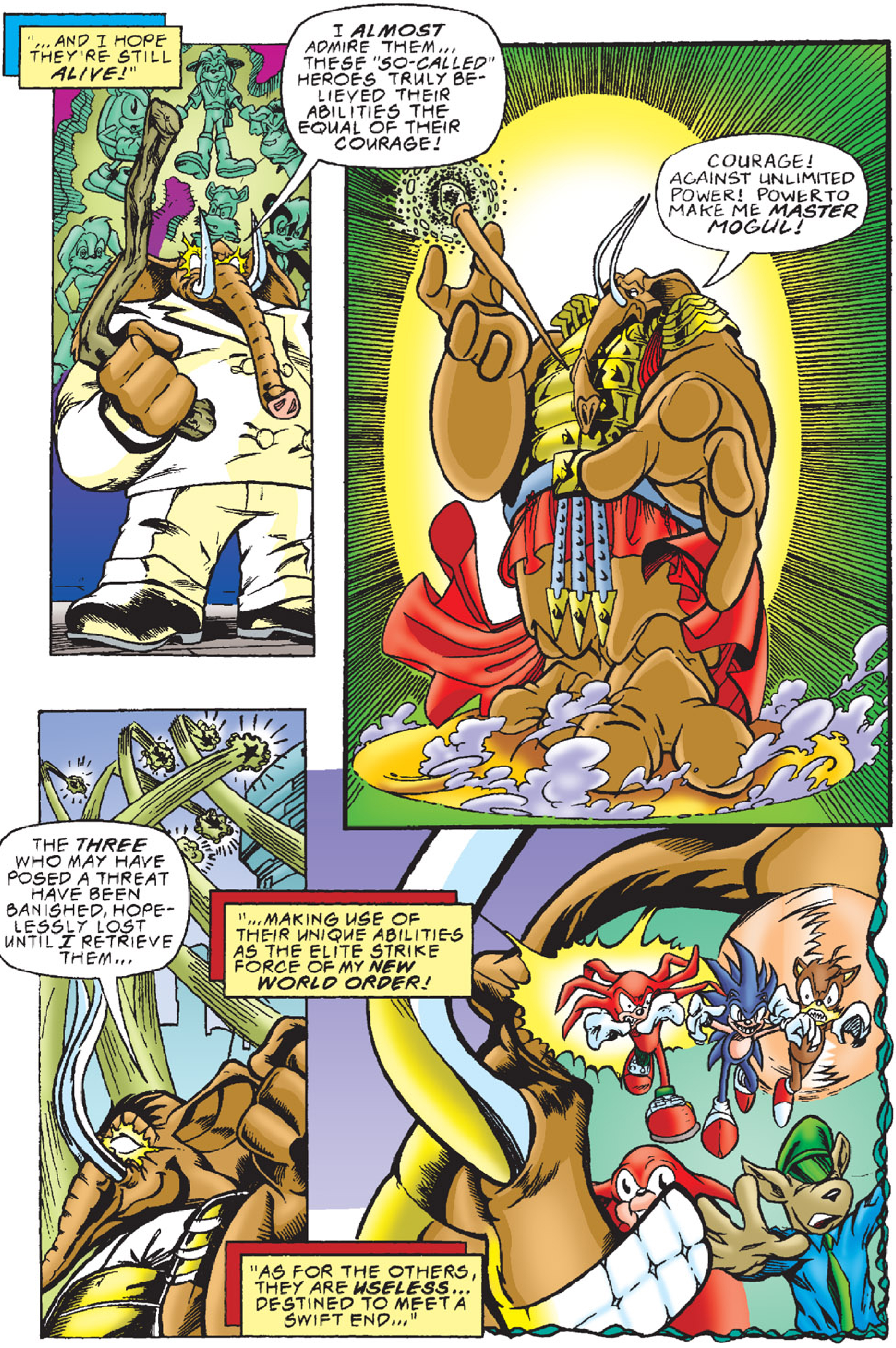
Some say knowledge is the ultimate power.
How then can true power be determined?
The answer may lie within recent events when one ancient warlord stole the power of another.
Upon his attack on Enerjak, Mammoth Mogul uttered these words, "There is always someone who is smarter, stronger and even more ruthless than you!"
Now possessing the power of twelve Chaos Emeralds and a millennium's worth of knowledge to control it, it seems that Mogul's words ring true! In light of the recent banishment of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles, does such a champion exist who can win this day? Or are both The Floating Island and the planet Mobius destined to be subjugated once again?

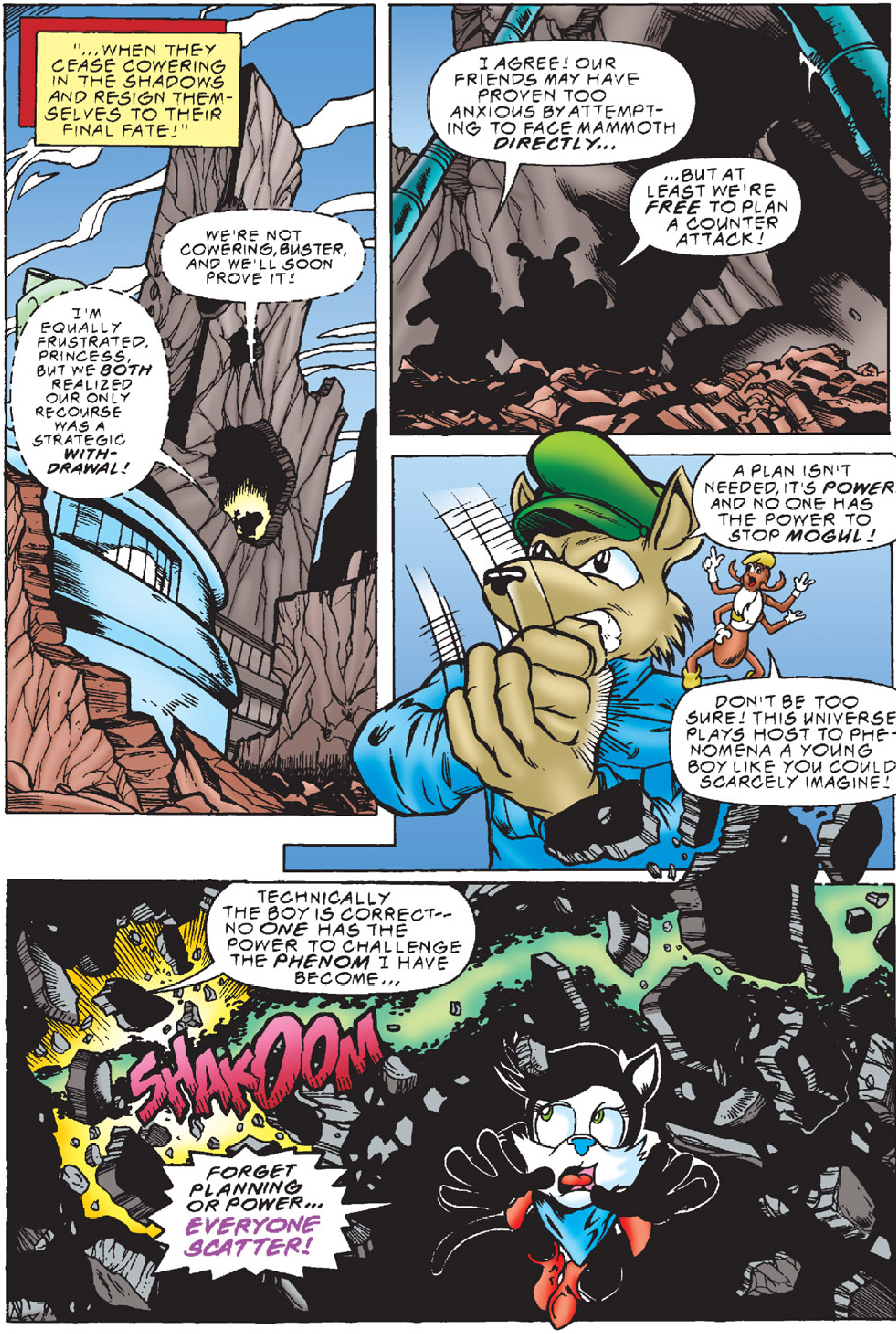
While these questions may be pending,
the answers are fortunately (or unfortunately)
not long in coming...

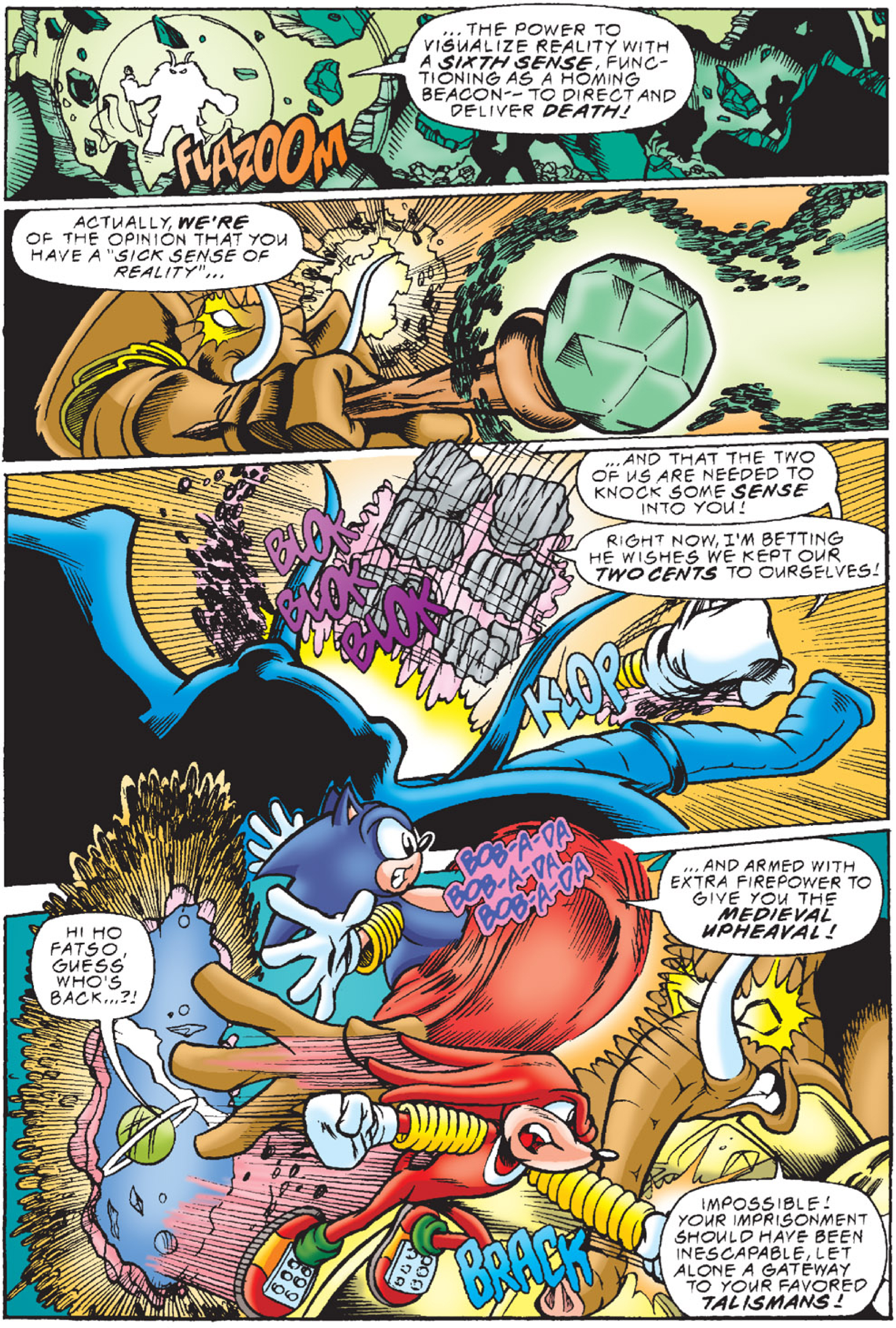

AGH! YOUR SPINES ARE JABBING MY HEAD!
UGH! BIG DEAL! YOUR CLAWS ARE JABBING MY SPINE!
YECCH! BOTH OF YOU GET YOUR DIRTY FEET OUTTA MY FACE!
IMMORTALITY is forever... Life is Finite.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR THAT SOME CHAOS EMERALD-POWERED JERK WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR HAS LEFT ME HELPLESS!
HOW COME IT'S ALWAYS THE LITTLEST GUY WHO GETS STUCK ON THE BOTTOM?!
STOP COMPLAINING AND LET'S FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE--AND HOW WE GET BACK!
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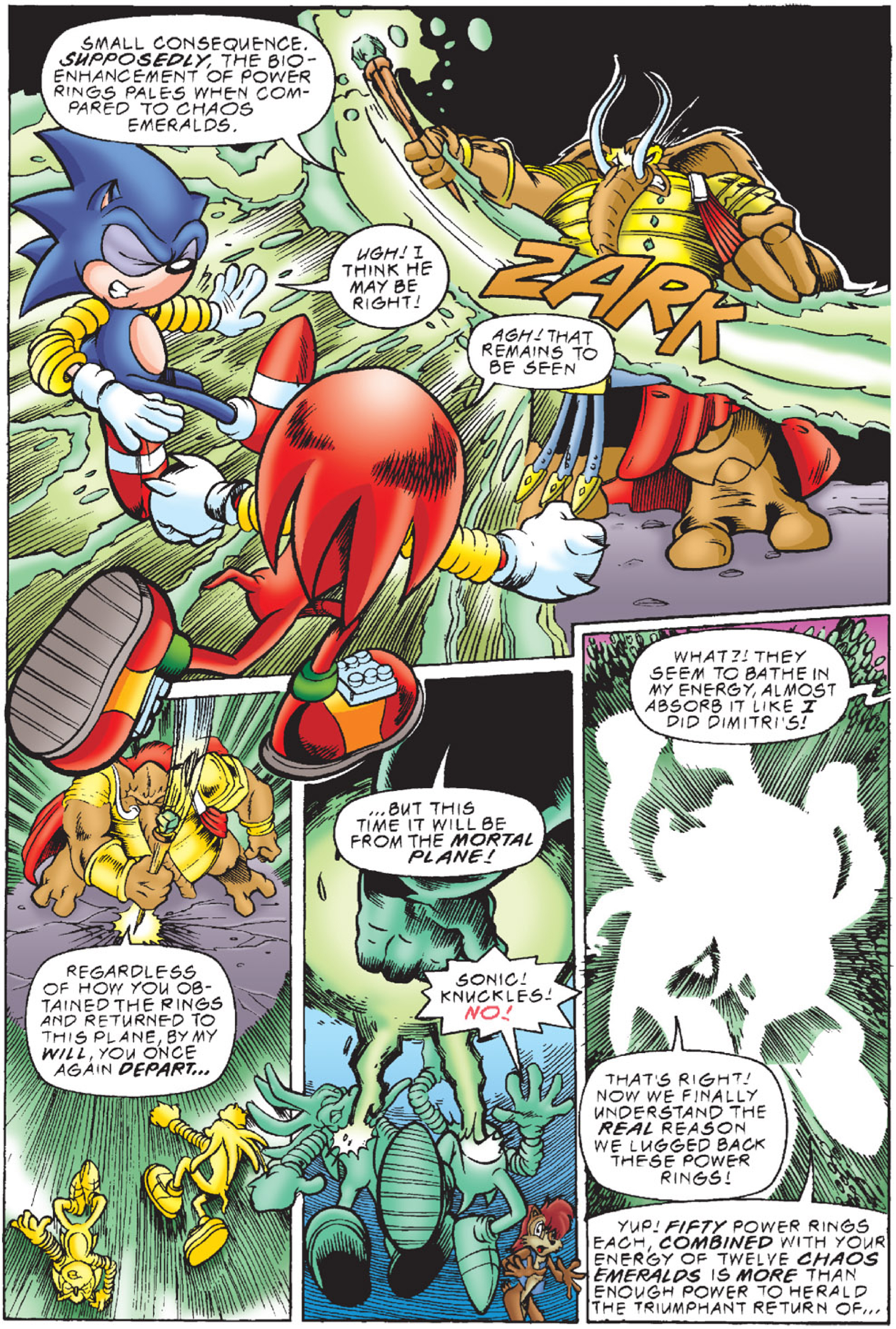

FIRST IT WAS MY POWER-MAD ANCESTOR* AND THEN THAT "MAMMOTH" IDIOT SENDS US TO THIS HOLE!
I WONDER WHAT JELLY-BELLY DID WITH THE REST OF OUR BUDS!
* "UNCLE ENERJAK" BROKE DOWN HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE IN KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL.2! -- EDITOR
WHAT THE?! SOME KINDA ROCK QUAKE?
SONIC! I THINK THE ROCK'S ALIVE!
DON'T BE STUPID, KID!
NO, WAIT! HE'S RIGHT! LOOKOUT!
AGH! IT'S GOT ME!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL PULL YOU FREE!
LET GO!
THE GRAVITY HERE IS WACKO! I'M DOING ZIG ZAGS!
BRRACK

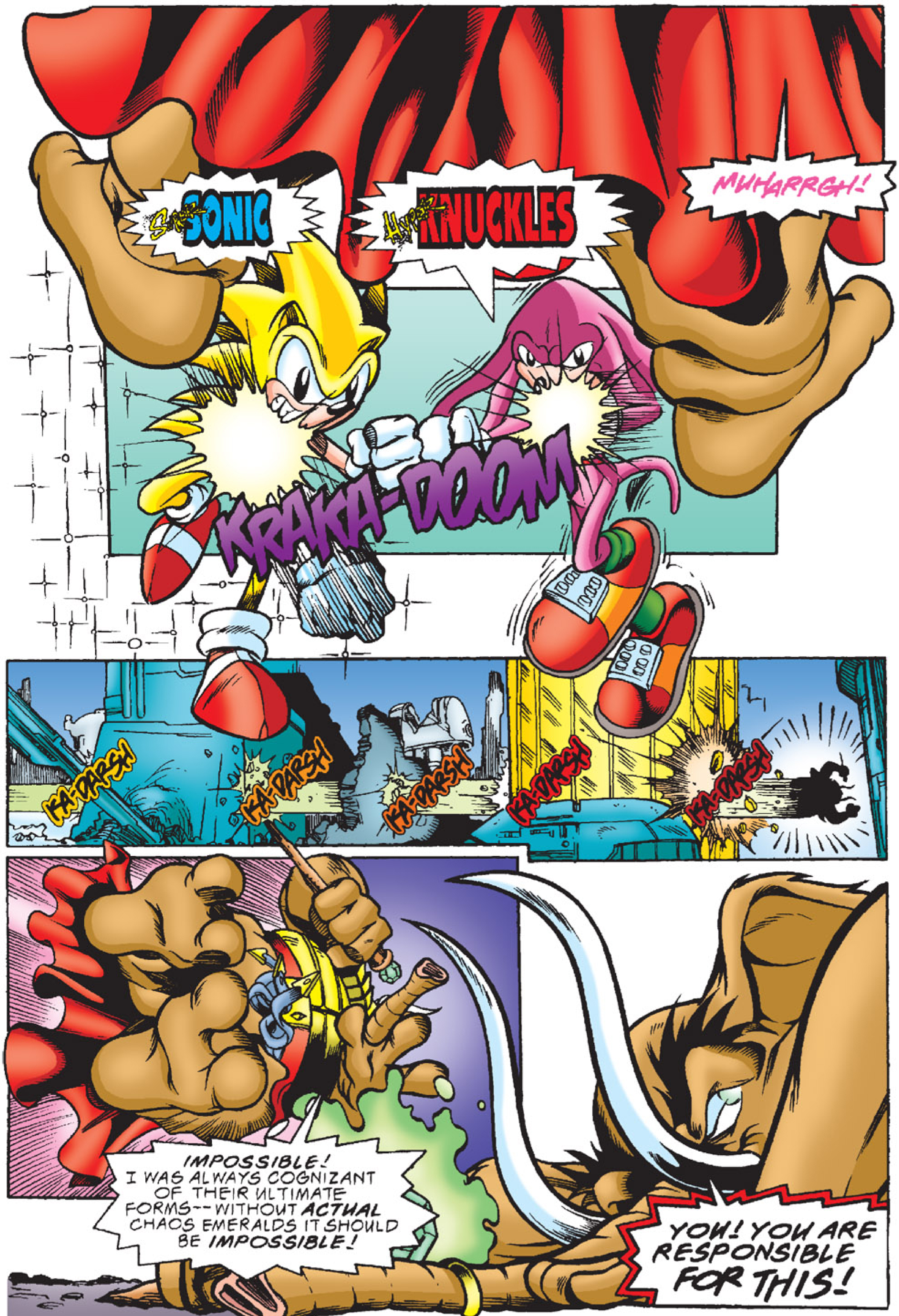

WRRRRR
NICE GOING BUT NOW THAT LEAVES US ALL HOPELESSLY ADRIFT!
HANG ON BIG GUY WHILE I PUT A NEW SPIN ON OUR PREDICAMENT!
MAYBE NOT! LOOK!
IT'S ATHAIR!
HE'S NOT BUDGING!
MAYBE THE OL' WEIRDO WANTS US TO COME TO HIM! BUT HOW?
TRUST THE MAN WITH THE PLAN! I BET IF I TRY MY FAMOUS FIGURE EIGHT IN REVERSE...
YES! THIS ZONE'S MONDO WEIRDO GRAVITY GAVE ME JUST ENOUGH REVERSE MOMENTUM TO HEAD FOR HIM!
GRAB ON!
ATHAIR'S GONE, BUT IN HIS PLACE IS SOME KINDA BLACK HOLE! WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!
MAYBE HE'S HELPING US FIND OUR FRIENDS!
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN THIS PLACE!

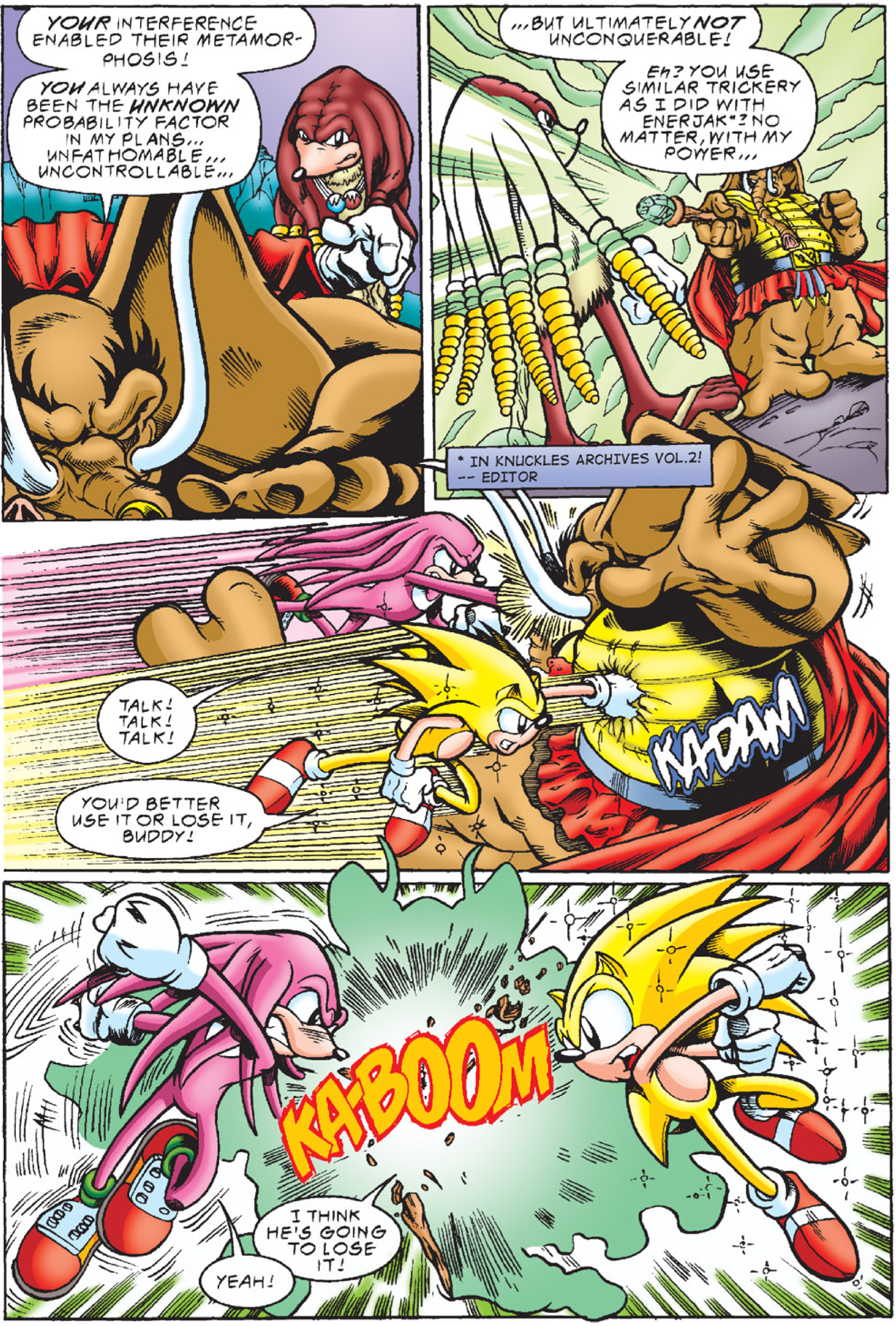

"...AND I HOPE THEY'RE STILL *ALIVE!*"
I *ALMOST* ADMIRE THEM... THESE "SO-CALLED" HEROES TRULY BE-LIEVED THEIR ABILITIES THE EQUAL OF THEIR COURAGE!
COURAGE! AGAINST UNLIMITED POWER! POWER TO MAKE ME *MASTER MOGUL!*
THE *THREE* WHO MAY HAVE POSED A THREAT HAVE BEEN BANISHED, HOPE-LESSLY LOST UNTIL *I* RETRIEVE THEM...
"...MAKING USE OF THEIR UNIQUE ABILITIES AS THE ELITE STRIKE FORCE OF MY *NEW WORLD ORDER!*
"AS FOR THE OTHERS, THEY ARE *USELESS*... DESTINED TO MEET A SWIFT END..."

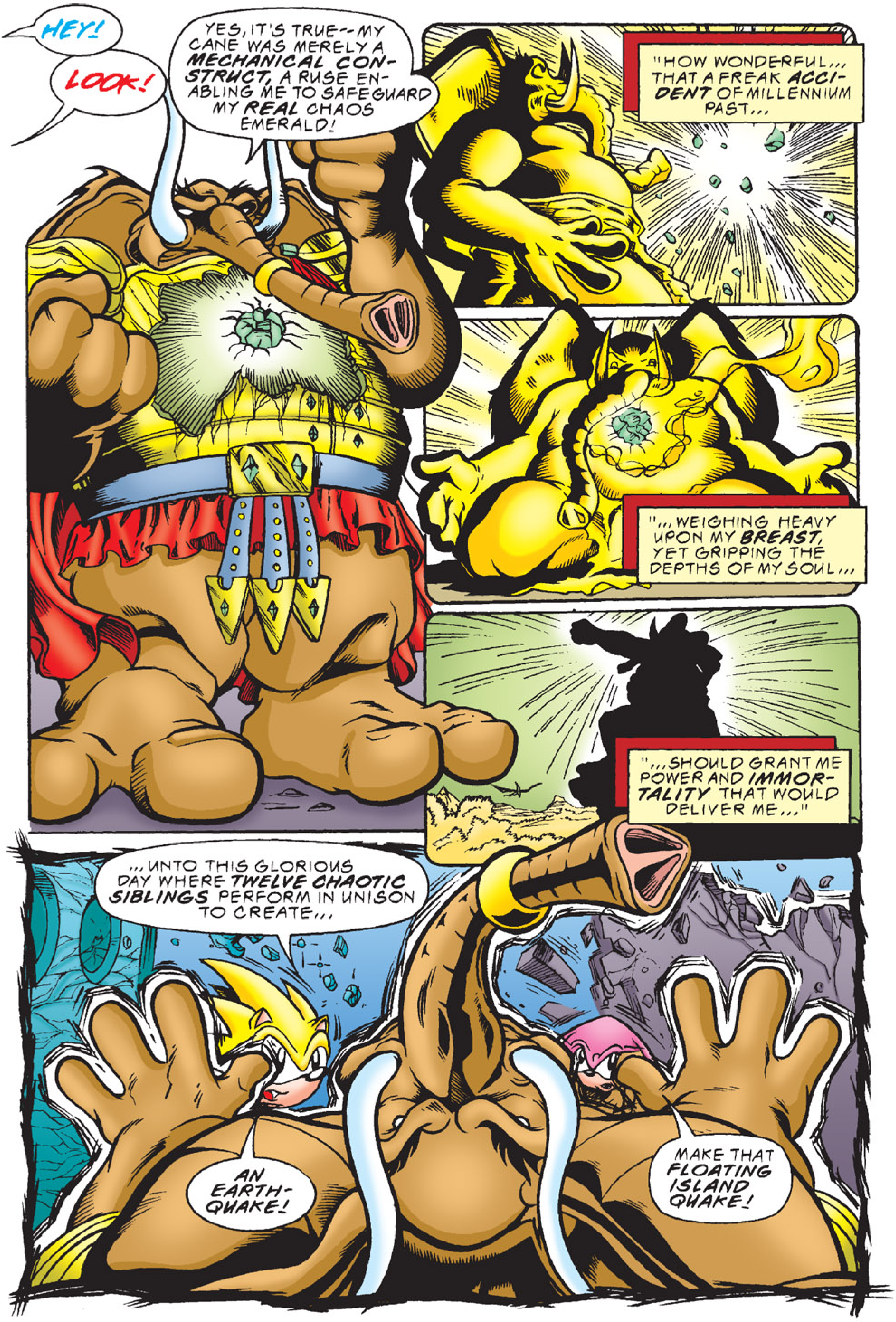

"...WHEN THEY CEASE COWERING IN THE SHADOWS AND RESIGN THEMSELVES TO THEIR FINAL FATE!"
WE'RE NOT COWERING, BUSTER, AND WE'LL SOON PROVE IT!
I'M EQUALLY FRUSTRATED, PRINCESS, BUT WE BOTH REALIZED OUR ONLY RECOURSE WAS A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL!
I AGREE! OUR FRIENDS MAY HAVE PROVEN TOO ANXIOUS BY ATTEMPTING TO FACE MAMMOTH DIRECTLY...
...BUT AT LEAST WE'RE FREE TO PLAN A COUNTER ATTACK!
A PLAN ISN'T NEEDED, IT'S POWER! AND NO ONE HAS THE POWER TO STOP MOGUL!
DON'T BE TOO SURE! THIS UNIVERSE PLAYS HOST TO PHENOMENA A YOUNG BOY LIKE YOU COULD SCARCELY IMAGINE!
TECHNICALLY THE BOY IS CORRECT-- NO ONE HAS THE POWER TO CHALLENGE THE PHENOM I HAVE BECOME...
SHAKOOM
FORGET PLANNING OR POWER... EVERYONE SCATTER!

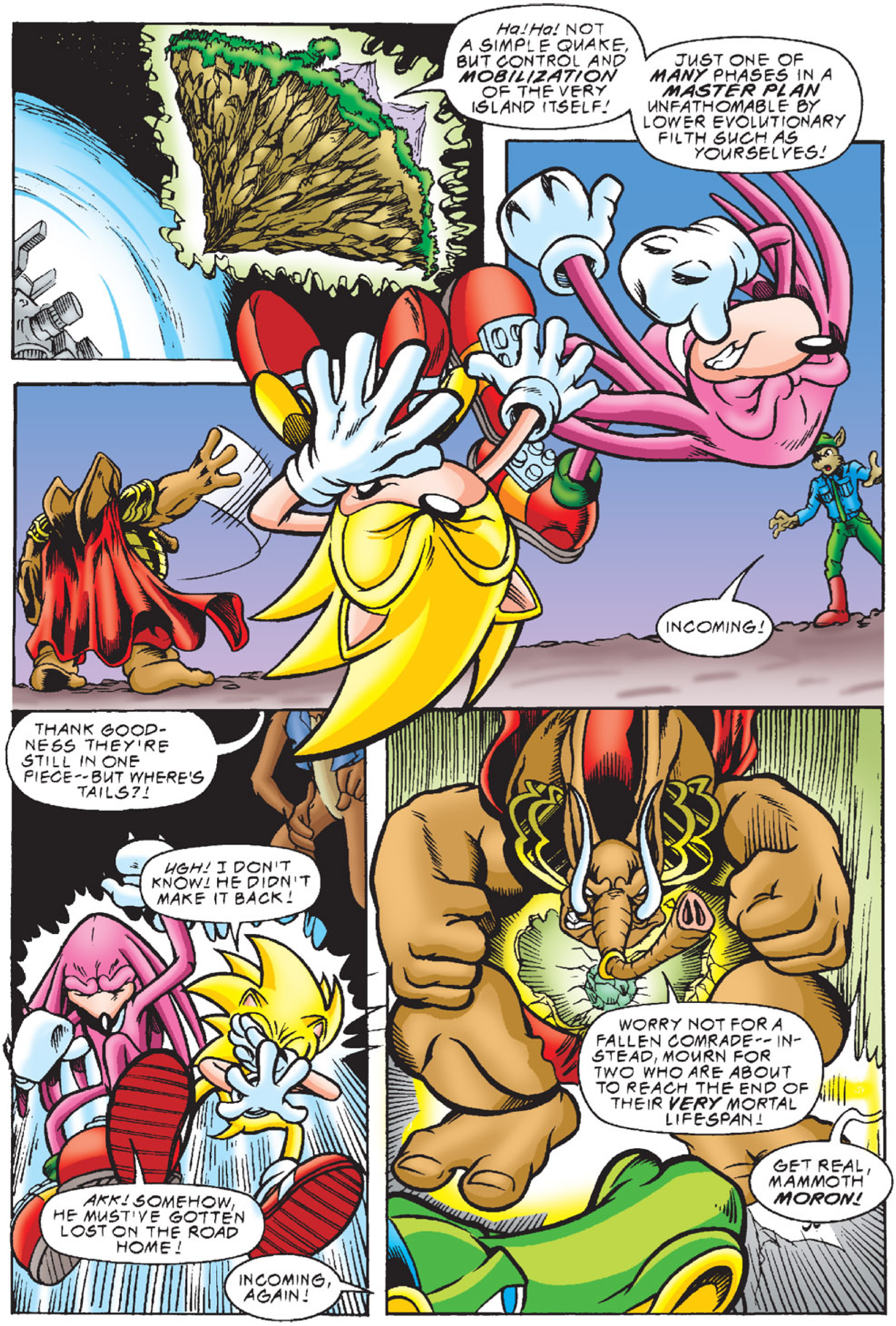

...THE POWER TO VISUALIZE REALITY WITH A SIXTH SENSE, FUNCTIONING AS A HOMING BEACON-- TO DIRECT AND DELIVER DEATH!
FLAZOOM
ACTUALLY, WE'RE OF THE OPINION THAT YOU HAVE A "SICK SENSE OF REALITY"...
...AND THAT THE TWO OF US ARE NEEDED TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU!
RIGHT NOW, I'M BETTING HE WISHES WE KEPT OUR TWO CENTS TO OURSELVES!
BLOK BLOK BLOK
KLOP
BOB-A-DA BOB-A-DA BOB-A-DA
...AND ARMED WITH EXTRA FIREPOWER TO GIVE YOU THE MEDIEVAL UPHEAVAL!
HI HO FATSO, GUESS WHO'S BACK...?!
BRACK
IMPOSSIBLE! YOUR IMPRISONMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INESCAPABLE, LET ALONE A GATEWAY TO YOUR FAVORED TALISMANS!


SMALL CONSEQUENCE. SUPPOSEDLY, THE BIO-ENHANCEMENT OF POWER RINGS PALES WHEN COMPARED TO CHAOS EMERALDS.
UGH! I THINK HE MAY BE RIGHT!
ZARK
AGH! THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN
REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU OBTAINED THE RINGS AND RETURNED TO THIS PLANE, BY MY WILL, YOU ONCE AGAIN DEPART...
...BUT THIS TIME IT WILL BE FROM THE MORTAL PLANE!
SONIC! KNUCKLES! NO!
WHAT?! THEY SEEM TO BATHE IN MY ENERGY, ALMOST ABSORB IT LIKE I DID DIMITRI'S!
THAT'S RIGHT! NOW WE FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE REAL REASON WE LUGGED BACK THESE POWER RINGS!
YUP! FIFTY POWER RINGS EACH, COMBINED WITH YOUR ENERGY OF TWELVE CHAOS EMERALDS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO HERALD THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF...


SUPER SONIC
HYPER KNUCKLES
MUHARRGH!
KRAKA-DOOM
KA-DARSH
KA-DARSH
KA-DARSH
KA-DARSH
KA-DARSH
IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS ALWAYS COGNIZANT OF THEIR ULTIMATE FORMS-- WITHOUT ACTUAL CHAOS EMERALDS IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!

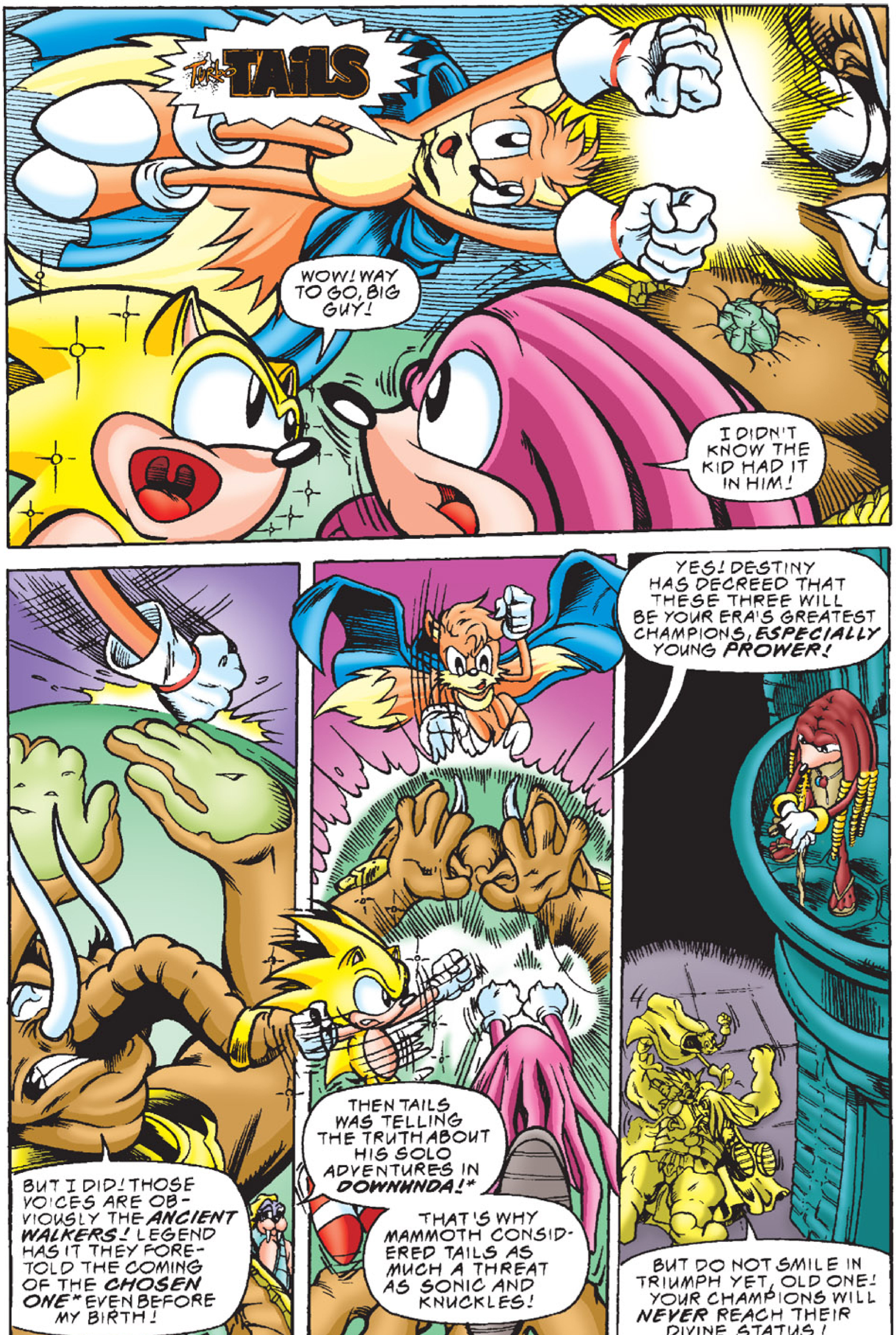

YOUR INTERFERENCE ENABLED THEIR METAMOR-PHOSIS!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN THE UNKNOWN PROBABILITY FACTOR IN MY PLANS... UNFATHOMABLE... UNCONTROLLABLE...
...BUT ULTIMATELY NOT UNCONQUERABLE!
Eh? YOU USE SIMILAR TRICKERY AS I DID WITH ENERJAK*? NO MATTER, WITH MY POWER...
* IN KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL.2! -- EDITOR
TALK! TALK! TALK!
YOU'D BETTER USE IT OR LOSE IT, BUDDY!
KADAM
KA-BOOM
I THINK HE'S GOING TO LOSE IT!
YEAH!


HEY!
LOOK!
YES, IT'S TRUE--MY CANE WAS MERELY A MECHANICAL CONSTRUCT, A RUSE ENABLING ME TO SAFEGUARD MY REAL CHAOS EMERALD!
"HOW WONDERFUL... THAT A FREAK ACCIDENT OF MILLENNIUM PAST...
"...WEIGHING HEAVY UPON MY BREAST, YET GRIPPING THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL...
"...SHOULD GRANT ME POWER AND IMMORTALITY THAT WOULD DELIVER ME..."
...UNTO THIS GLORIOUS DAY WHERE TWELVE CHAOTIC SIBLINGS PERFORM IN UNISON TO CREATE...
AN EARTHQUAKE!
MAKE THAT FLOATING ISLAND QUAKE!



Ha! Ha! NOT A SIMPLE QUAKE, BUT CONTROL AND MOBILIZATION OF THE VERY ISLAND ITSELF!
JUST ONE OF MANY PHASES IN A MASTER PLAN UNFATHOMABLE BY LOWER EVOLUTIONARY FILTH SUCH AS YOURSELVES!
INCOMING!
THANK GOODNESS THEY'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE--BUT WHERE'S TAILS?!
UGH! I DON'T KNOW! HE DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK!
AKK! SOMEHOW, HE MUST'VE GOTTEN LOST ON THE ROAD HOME!
INCOMING, AGAIN!
WORRY NOT FOR A FALLEN COMRADE-- INSTEAD, MOURN FOR TWO WHO ARE ABOUT TO REACH THE END OF THEIR VERY MORTAL LIFESPAN!
GET REAL, MAMMOTH MORON!

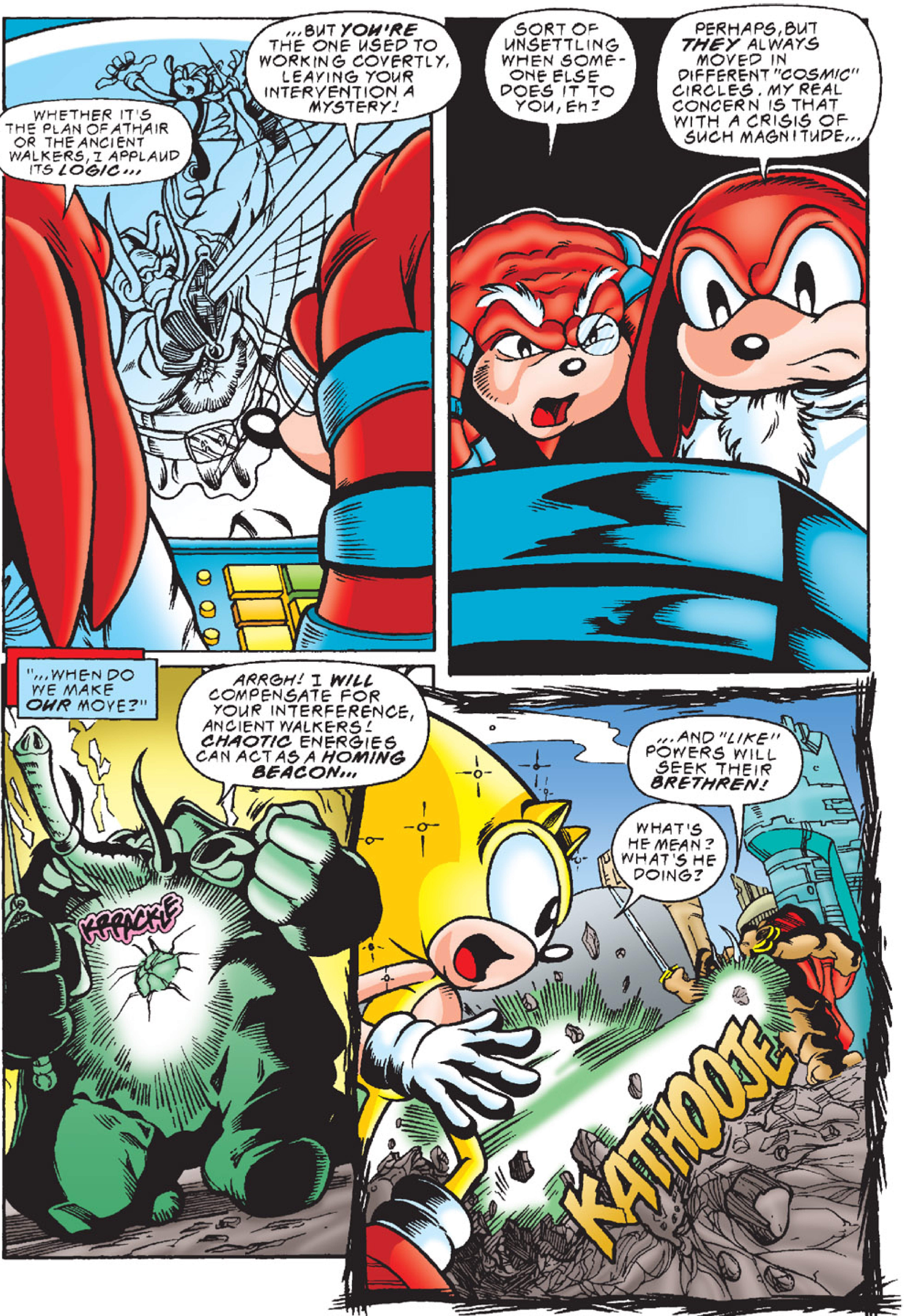

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING DOWN!
Eh?
WHO'S THAT PHANTOM STRANGER?!
WHO INDEED?! WHAT BEING IS GIFTED ENOUGH TO EVADE THE SCOPE OF MY ENHANCED SENSES, YET REMAINS VULNERABLE TO MY ASSAULT?!
LOOKS LIKE HOMEBOY WASN'T EVEN TRYING TO DODGE!
THOSE VOICES IN MY HEAD WERE TELLING THE TRUTH! IT'S REALLY WORKING, JUST LIKE IT DOES FOR THEM!
SPLOW
NOW I REALLY AM CAPTAIN SUPER FOX-MAN! BUT I GUESS I SHOULD GO BY THE NAME THEY GAVE ME...



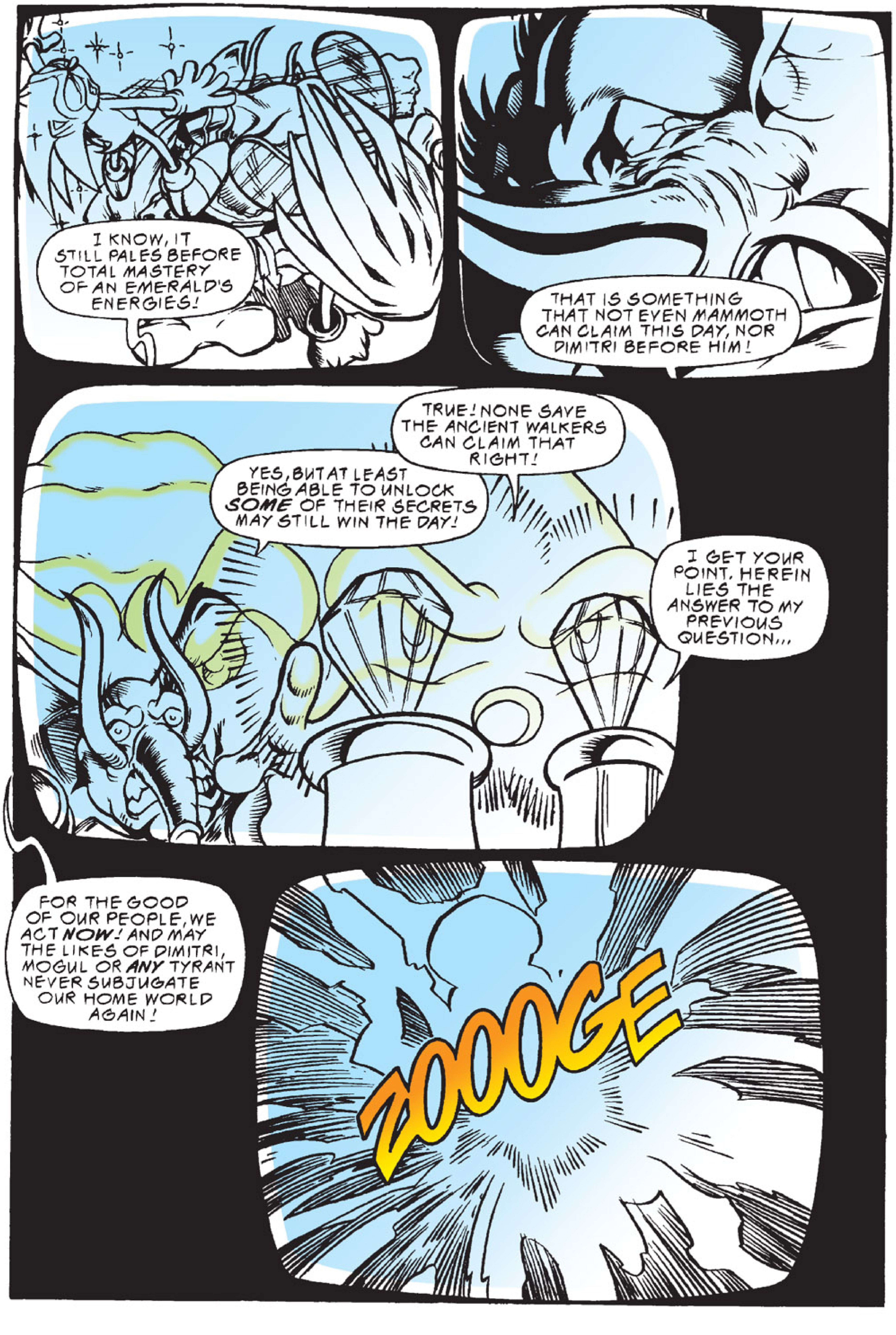
* SEE TAILS' MINI-SERIES -- EDITOR.

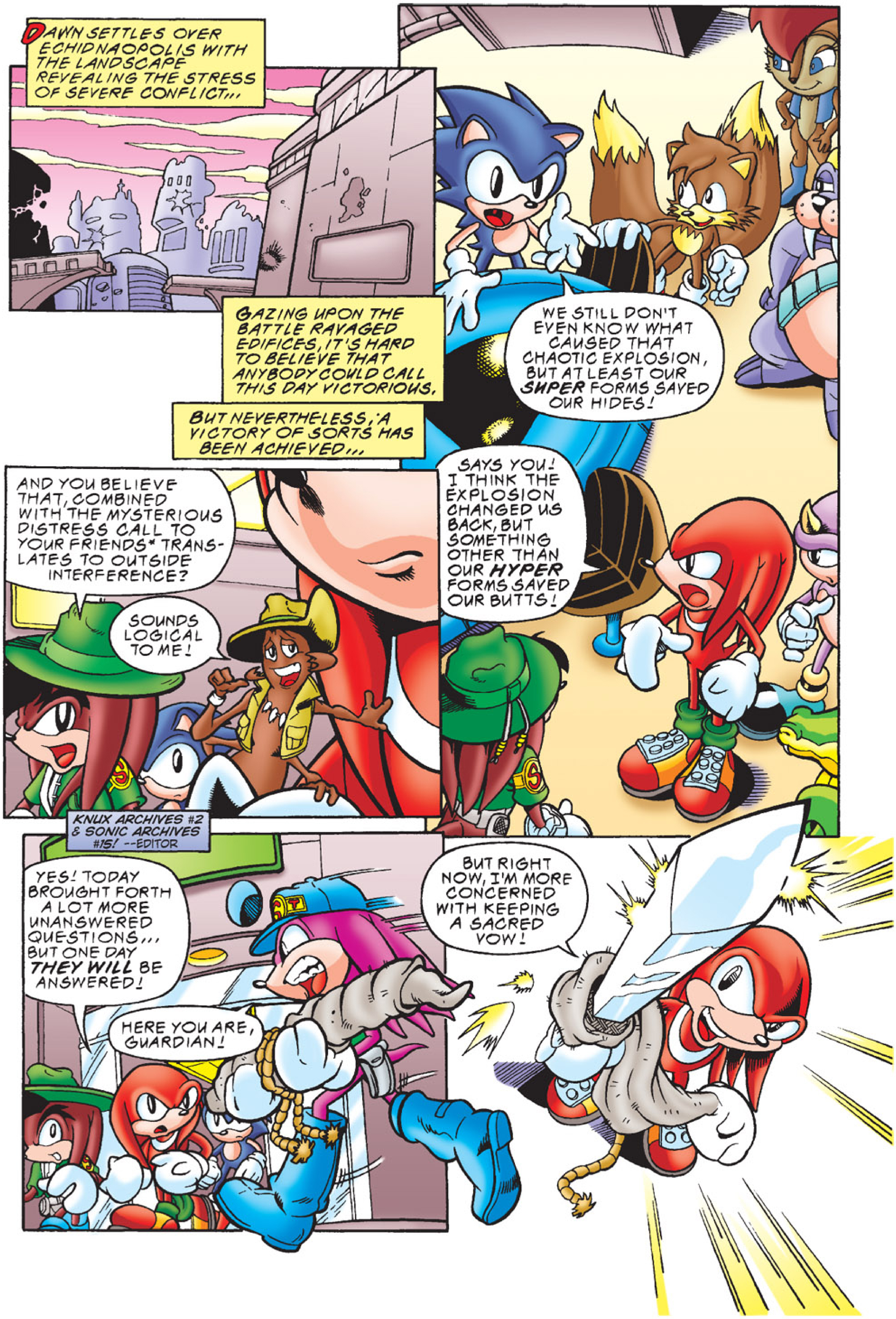

FOR IT HAS EVER BEEN TOLD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES THAT THE POWER OF A TITAN ALWAYS PALED BEFORE THAT OF A GOD...
...AND WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL AN IMMORTAL OVERLORD LIKE ME?! UNLIKE DIMITRI, I HAVE MASTERED MY CHAOTIC STRENGTHS AND INTEND TO...
Y'KNOW, KINDA FUNNY HOW YOU SHOULD MENTION THE "BLACK SHEEP" OF KNUCKLES' FAMILY!
I... KNOW... WHAT... THAT... IS...
AGH! THE CHAOS SYPHON!* WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RENEGADE ECHIDNA'S BRAINCHILD APPEARING HERE AND NOW-- YOU ATHAIR, OR YOUR MASTERS?!
FASHOOM
YES! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE... I CAN SEE YOU WATCHING...
* FIRST APPEARED IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL.9 -- EDITOR


NEVERTHELESS, PUT NOT TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR "CHOSEN ONE"... ANCIENT WALKERS! AMBITIONS AND POWER OF MY CALIBER LEAVE NO ROOM FOR FAILURE!
STILL, CONCENTRATING ALL YOUR POWER IN ONE DIRECTION DID FREE US!
GUESS HE WAS TOO "AMBITIOUS" TO THINK OF MINOR THINGS!
YOU GIVE HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT--FOR THINKING THAT IZ!
I'M AFRAID STRATEGY AND NUMBERS WON'T WIN THE DAY. FOR THE MOMENT, THE ONLY ADVANTAGE THEY HAVE IS TAILS AND THAT... THAT POWER SYPHON!
DO I DETECT A NOTE OF ANGER IN YOUR VOICE, MY SON?

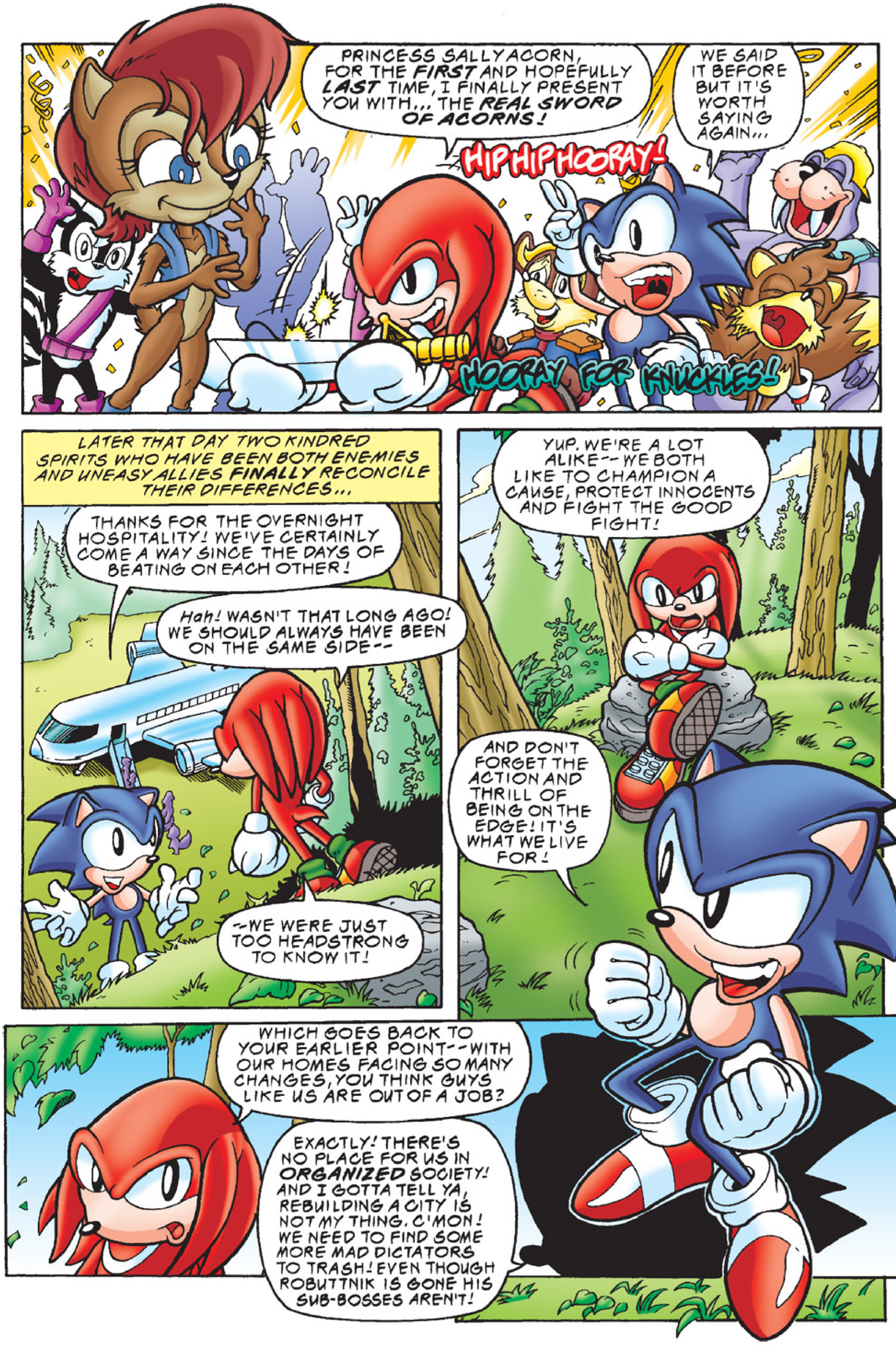

WHETHER IT'S THE PLAN OF ATHAIR OR THE ANCIENT WALKERS, I APPLAUD ITS LOGIC...
...BUT YOU'RE THE ONE USED TO WORKING COVERTLY, LEAVING YOUR INTERVENTION A MYSTERY!
SORT OF UNSETTLING WHEN SOME-ONE ELSE DOES IT TO YOU, EH?
PERHAPS, BUT THEY ALWAYS MOVED IN DIFFERENT "COSMIC" CIRCLES. MY REAL CONCERN IS THAT WITH A CRISIS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE...
"...WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR MOVE?"
ARRGH! I WILL COMPENSATE FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE, ANCIENT WALKERS! CHAOTIC ENERGIES CAN ACT AS A HOMING BEACON...
KRRACKLE
...AND "LIKE" POWERS WILL SEEK THEIR BRETHREN!
WHAT'S HE MEAN? WHAT'S HE DOING?
KATHOOOSE

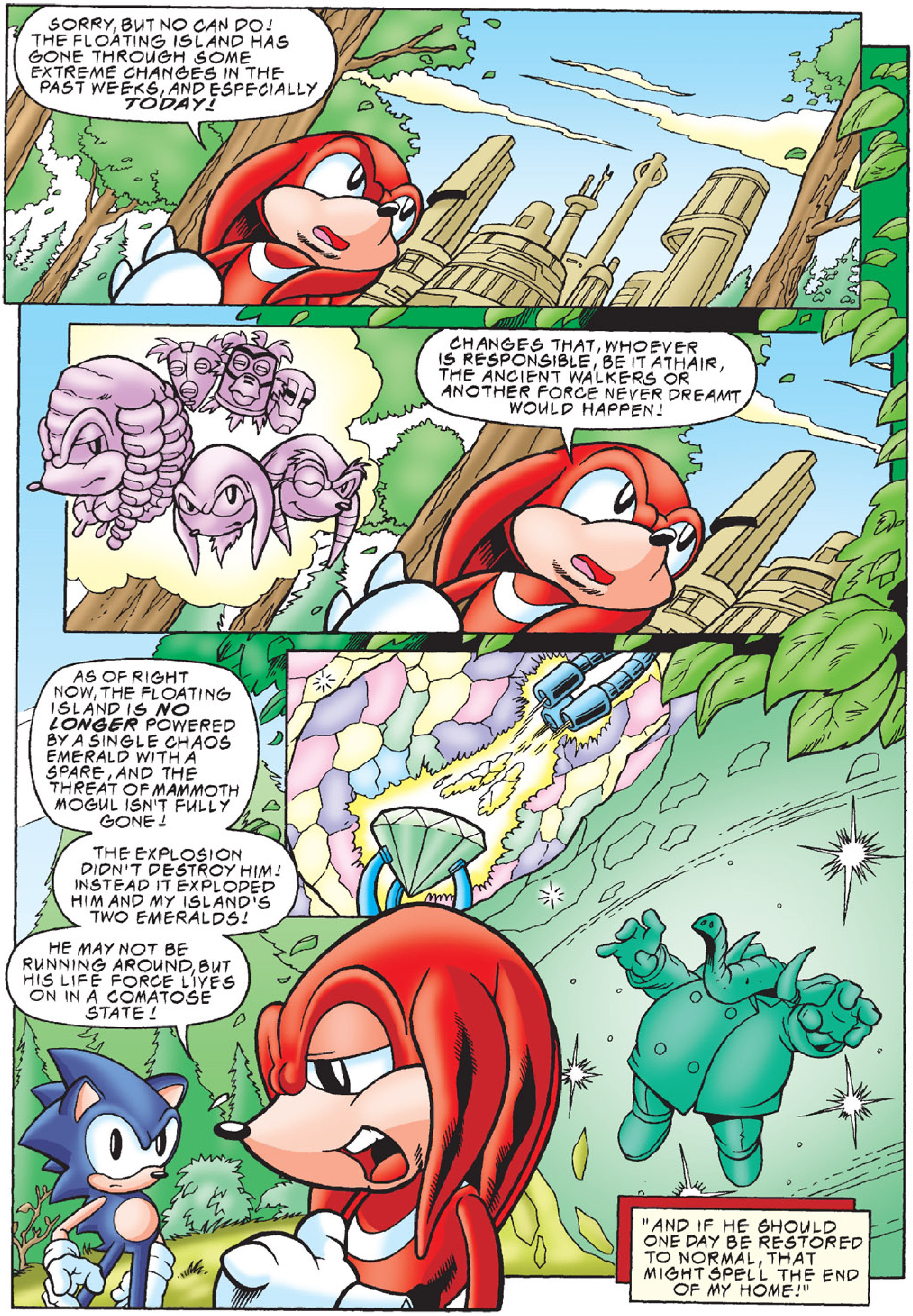

HE'S GOING FOR MY ISLAND'S CHAOS EMERALDS IN THE CHAOS CHAMBER! AFTER HIM!
HAH! HOW CAN YOU MEASURE THE LIMITLESS POWER OF ONE DOZEN WHEN IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE LIMITLESS POWER OF TWO MORE!
SUFFICE TO SAY, IT'S POWER ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH ANY MECHANICAL CONSTRUCT, NO MATTER HOW WELL DESIGNED!
STOP HIM BEFORE HE USES THEIR...
KRA-KOW
...AS ILLUSTRATED!
AMAZING! THEIR ULTIMATE FORMS FULLY PROTECTED THEM!
WHILE YOU MAY BE PROUD THAT YOUR SON IS THE ONLY GUARDIAN TO EVER ACHIEVE THAT FORM...

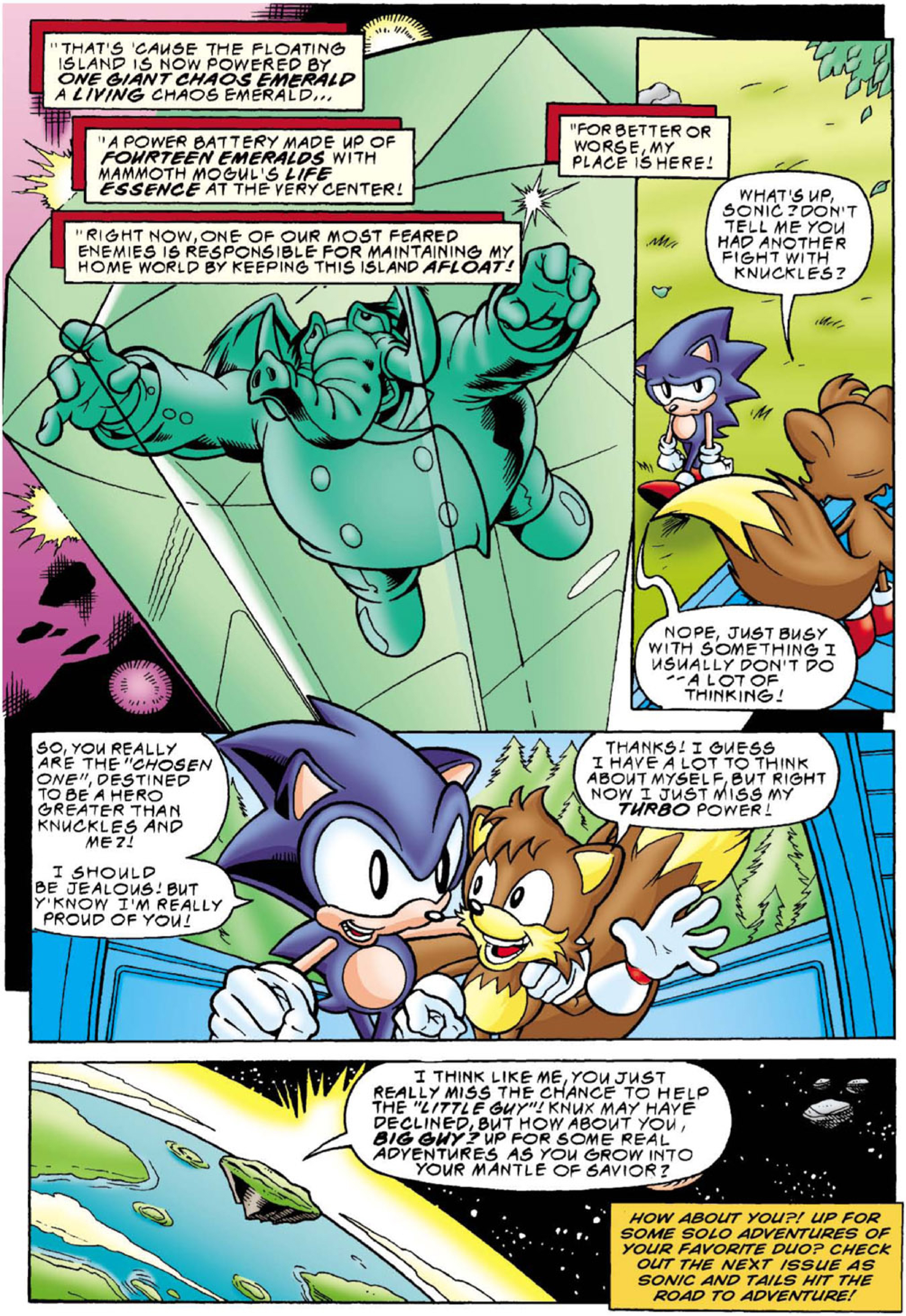

I KNOW, IT STILL PALES BEFORE TOTAL MASTERY OF AN EMERALD'S ENERGIES!
THAT IS SOMETHING THAT NOT EVEN *MAMMOTH* CAN CLAIM THIS DAY, NOR DIMITRI BEFORE HIM!
YES, BUT AT LEAST BEING ABLE TO UNLOCK *SOME* OF THEIR SECRETS MAY STILL WIN THE DAY!
TRUE! NONE SAVE THE ANCIENT WALKERS CAN CLAIM THAT RIGHT!
I GET YOUR POINT. HEREIN LIES THE ANSWER TO MY PREVIOUS QUESTION...
FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE, WE ACT *NOW!* AND MAY THE LIKES OF DIMITRI, MOGUL OR *ANY* TYRANT NEVER SUBJUGATE OUR HOME WORLD AGAIN!
ZOOOGE



DAWN SETTLES OVER ECHIDNAOPOLIS WITH THE LANDSCAPE REVEALING THE STRESS OF SEVERE CONFLICT...
GAZING UPON THE BATTLE RAVAGED EDIFICES, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYBODY COULD CALL THIS DAY VICTORIOUS.
BUT NEVERTHELESS, A VICTORY OF SORTS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED...
WE STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT CAUSED THAT CHAOTIC EXPLOSION, BUT AT LEAST OUR SUPER FORMS SAVED OUR HIDES!
SAYS YOU! I THINK THE EXPLOSION CHANGED US BACK, BUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN OUR HYPER FORMS SAVED OUR BUTTS!
AND YOU BELIEVE THAT, COMBINED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DISTRESS CALL TO YOUR FRIENDS* TRANSLATES TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE?
SOUNDS LOGICAL TO ME!
*KNUX ARCHIVES #2 & SONIC ARCHIVES #15! --EDITOR
YES! TODAY BROUGHT FORTH A LOT MORE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS... BUT ONE DAY THEY WILL BE ANSWERED!
HERE YOU ARE, GUARDIAN!
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING A SACRED VOW!


PRINCESS SALLY ACORN, FOR THE FIRST AND HOPEFULLY LAST TIME, I FINALLY PRESENT YOU WITH... THE REAL SWORD OF ACORNS!
WE SAID IT BEFORE BUT IT'S WORTH SAYING AGAIN...
HIP HIP HOORAY!
HOORAY FOR KNUCKLES!
LATER THAT DAY TWO KINDRED SPIRITS WHO HAVE BEEN BOTH ENEMIES AND UNEASY ALLIES FINALLY RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES...
THANKS FOR THE OVERNIGHT HOSPITALITY! WE'VE CERTAINLY COME A WAY SINCE THE DAYS OF BEATING ON EACH OTHER!
Hah! WASN'T THAT LONG AGO! WE SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE BEEN ON THE SAME SIDE--
--WE WERE JUST TOO HEADSTRONG TO KNOW IT!
YUP. WE'RE A LOT ALIKE--WE BOTH LIKE TO CHAMPION A CAUSE, PROTECT INNOCENTS AND FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!
AND DON'T FORGET THE ACTION AND THRILL OF BEING ON THE EDGE! IT'S WHAT WE LIVE FOR!
WHICH GOES BACK TO YOUR EARLIER POINT--WITH OUR HOMES FACING SO MANY CHANGES, YOU THINK GUYS LIKE US ARE OUT OF A JOB?
EXACTLY! THERE'S NO PLACE FOR US IN ORGANIZED SOCIETY! AND I GOTTA TELL YA, REBUILDING A CITY IS NOT MY THING. C'MON! WE NEED TO FIND SOME MORE MAD DICTATORS TO TRASH! EVEN THOUGH ROBUTTNIK IS GONE HIS SUB-BOSSES AREN'T!


SORRY, BUT NO CAN DO! THE FLOATING ISLAND HAS GONE THROUGH SOME EXTREME CHANGES IN THE PAST WEEKS, AND ESPECIALLY *TODAY!*
CHANGES THAT, WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE, BE IT ATHAIR, THE ANCIENT WALKERS OR ANOTHER FORCE NEVER DREAMT WOULD HAPPEN!
AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE FLOATING ISLAND IS ***NO LONGER*** POWERED BY A SINGLE CHAOS EMERALD WITH A SPARE, AND THE THREAT OF MAMMOTH MOGUL ISN'T FULLY GONE!
THE EXPLOSION DIDN'T DESTROY HIM! INSTEAD IT EXPLODED HIM AND MY ISLAND'S TWO EMERALDS!
HE *MAY* NOT BE RUNNING AROUND, BUT HIS LIFE FORCE LIVES ON IN A COMATOSE STATE!
"AND IF HE SHOULD ONE DAY BE RESTORED TO NORMAL, THAT MIGHT SPELL THE END OF MY HOME!"


"THAT'S 'CAUSE THE FLOATING ISLAND IS NOW POWERED BY ONE GIANT CHAOS EMERALD A LIVING CHAOS EMERALD...
"A POWER BATTERY MADE UP OF FOURTEEN EMERALDS WITH MAMMOTH MOGUL'S LIFE ESSENCE AT THE VERY CENTER!
"RIGHT NOW, ONE OF OUR MOST FEARED ENEMIES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING MY HOME WORLD BY KEEPING THIS ISLAND AFLOAT!
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE, MY PLACE IS HERE!
WHAT'S UP, SONIC? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAD ANOTHER FIGHT WITH KNUCKLES?
NOPE, JUST BUSY WITH SOMETHING I USUALLY DON'T DO --A LOT OF THINKING!
SO, YOU REALLY ARE THE "CHOSEN ONE", DESTINED TO BE A HERO GREATER THAN KNUCKLES AND ME?!
I SHOULD BE JEALOUS! BUT Y'KNOW I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU!
THANKS! I GUESS I HAVE A LOT TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF, BUT RIGHT NOW I JUST MISS MY TURBO POWER!
I THINK LIKE ME, YOU JUST REALLY MISS THE CHANCE TO HELP THE "LITTLE GUY"! KNUX MAY HAVE DECLINED, BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, BIG GUY? UP FOR SOME REAL ADVENTURES AS YOU GROW INTO YOUR MANTLE OF SAVIOR?
HOW ABOUT YOU?! UP FOR SOME SOLO ADVENTURES OF YOUR FAVORITE DUO? CHECK OUT THE NEXT ISSUE AS SONIC AND TAILS HIT THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE!